

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 INR-07 /033 W

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P 291318Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2540

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 6666

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT BY LEWIS W. BOWDEN

REF: STATE 229786; B) JIDDA 4796; C) JIDDA 4764; D) JIDDA 4621;

E) KUWAIT 2716; F) STATE 115133

1. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW PURPOSE OF MR. BOWDEN'S PLANNED TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA. BRUCE MORGAN, DIRECTOR OF THE USREP OFFICE IN RIYADH, IS SETTling INTO HIS JOB ADMIRABLY. HE IS EXTENDING HIS CONTACTS AND DEEPENING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH DR. AL-TURKI, SADUI COORDINATOR. IT DOES NOT SEEM NECESSARY FOR BOWDEN TO ARRIVE ON THE SCENE AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE WHEN MORGAN MUST ESTABLISH HIS BONA FIDES AND INDEED COULD INHIBIT MORGAN'S ACTIVATION. NOT ONLY WOULD THIS CREATE CONFUSION IN SAUDI MINDS REGARDING WHO IS ACTUALLY IN CHARGE, IT WOULD TEND TO CREATE SUSPICION REGARDING THE DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST WHICH WASHINGTON IS WILLING TO VEST IN MORGAN.

2. OVER THE PAST SUMMER WE HAVE SEEN A PROCESSION OF INDIVIDUALS FROM OSAA TRAVELLING THROUGH RIYADH. THIS NUMBER HAS SOWN CONFUSION AMONG SAUDIS WHO DESIRE TO PIN POINT ONE OR TWO INDIVIDUALS WHOM THEY CAN CONSIDER THEIR PRIMARY CONTACT AND SOURCE OF INFOR-  
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MATION. WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF ADDITIONS TO THE USREP

STAFF THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PROBLEM, BUT SHOULD NOT BE MADE WORSE BY ADDITIONAL WASHINGTON VISITORS.

3. IN ADDITION, A VERY SERIOUS PERSONAL PROBLEM EXISTS. DURING BOWDEN'S LAST VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA HE ATTEMPTED TO FORCE THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAM THEN EXAMINING PROSPECTS FOR A PROJECT. THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOR WAS SO INCENSED BY BOWDEN'S CONDUCT OF THIS EFFORT THAT HE STATED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER RECENTLY: "I HATE THAT MAN BOWDEN\*" AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, SUCH REACTIONS BY THE EVER-POLITE SAUDIS ARE ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED, AND NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. SUCH PERSONAL FEELINGS ARE WIDELY TRANSMITTED IN THE SAG AND WILL TAKE A NUMBER OF MONTHS TO DISSIPATE.

4. FINALLY, EMBASSY, SAUDIS AND USREP ARE EXPECTING TO BE LITERALLY INUNDATED WITH VISITORS DURING THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AFTER 'ID AL-FITR.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EXPLAIN TO MR. BOWDEN, AS TACTFULLY AS DEPARTMENT FEELS NECESSARY, THAT HE SHOULD DELAY HIS PLANS FOR A VISIT OR IF HE COMES THAT HE STAY IN RIYADH A MAXIMUM OF TWO DAYS. IF HE COMES TO JIDDA HE SHOULD NOT PLAN TO COME ON OUR WEEKEND, I.E. THURSDAY OR FRIDAY.

AKINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, COMMITTEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975JIDDA06666  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**From:** JIDDA  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 229786, 75 JIDDA 4796, 75 JIDDA 4764, 75 JIDDA 4621  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED VISIT BY LEWIS W. BOWDEN  
**TAGS:** EGEN, USSAEC, (BOWDEN, LEWIS W)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006